

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03153 030237Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7353

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3153

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: CITRUS WAX

IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF FOOD ADDITIVE PROBLEM WITH
VISITING FORMER HEW SECRETARY WILBUR COHEN MARCH 1,
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE--TANAKA TOUCHED ON
RECENT CITRUS WAX ISSUE. TANAKA SAID THAT ALTHOUGH
MINISTRY OF WELFARE EXPERTS NOT CONVINCED THAT
THERE NO CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES IN "NATURAL WAX," HE
PERSONALLY MADE DECISION THAT CITRUS IMPORTS FROM US
TREATED WITH WAX COMPOSED ONLY OF "NATURAL" SUBSTANCES.
NOTING PRESENCE OF EMBASSY OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING COHEN
ON CALL, TANAKA SAID HE TOOK THIS DECISION IN ORDER TO
PREVENT SERIOUS TRADE ISSUE BETWEEN US AND JAPAN AND OUT OF
CONSIDERATION FOR US-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP. TANAKA NOTED
ISSUE MAY BE RAISED DURING CURRENT DIET SESSION WITH
MINISTRY'S DECISION COMING UNDER HEAVY CRITICISM. TANAKA
ADDED THAT HE FULLY PREPARED TO DEFEND HIS DECISION.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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